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## REVOLUTIONARY ARMY ORDERS

For the Main Army under Washington. 1778-1779.

(From Originals in the Collection in the Virginia Historical Society.)

(CONTINUED.)

## ORDERS FOR WAYNE'S LIGHT INFANTRY CORPS.

Extrect from Gen'l orders Sep'r 20th 1779 at a Gen'l Court Martial whereof Colo. Putnam was President Colo. Butler<sup>1</sup> was Tryed on the Following Charges. First for Endeavouring to Excite the Soldiers of Capt. Ashmeads Company to mutiny by ordering the Non commissioned officers Not to obey any order of his Capt. Ashmeads<sup>2</sup> Secondly for treating Capt. Ashmead in an unpresidently & unOfficer like manner by Refusing him Liberty to wait on Gen'l Wayne to Complain of Ill treatment and Seek Redress & sending him Under Guard from the Lt. Infantry Camp to west Point after having Receiv'd Colo. Stewards<sup>3</sup> orders to Go to the Infantry & take the Command of his Capt. Ashmeads Company.

the Court are of opinion that Colo. Butler is Not Guilty of the first Charge they do aquit him of Refusing Capt. Ashmead Liberty to wait on Gen'l Wayne to Complain of Ill treatment & Seek Redress they are of opinion that Colo. Butler was Not Justifyable in sending Capt. Ashmead under Guard from the Lt. Infantry to west Point being a breech of fifth article & Eighteenth Section of the artickles of Ware & do Sentance him to be Repremaned by the Commanding Officer of the

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<sup>1</sup>Probably the distinguished Col. Richard Butler of Pennsylvania.

<sup>2</sup>Capt. Jacob Ashmead, 2nd Pennsylvania regiment, resigned (says *Heitman*), May 16, 1779.

<sup>3</sup>Col. Walter Stewart, 2nd Pennsylvania, who, as aide-de camp to Gen. Gates, carried the news of Saratoga to Congress.

Corps of Light Infantry—the Commander in Chief approves the Sentence & Dericts it to be Carried in to Execution at the Same time he thinks Colo. Butlers Conduct Blamible in not Permitting Capt. Ashmead to see Gen'l Wayne onless he would Ingage to comply with a Condition which Colo. Butler had to Right to anex. Nor was there any mode fo such Condi- sion as there was allways Proper meends of Enforcing desip- ling of Capt. Ashmead After applying to Gen'l Wayne Per- sisted in a Refractory behaviour to Prevent any one under- standing in futer the Gen'l Derects that the Nomination of all Capts. & Subn. to Release others of Nesisary or full & a concies in the Light Corps while it Remains together be Re- ported to adjutant Gen'l & Receive the approbation of the Gen'l before they be sent to take Command for this Purpose the Officers Commanding Regts. of L. Infantry will Report to the Adjutant Gen'l the Vacancys that hapen who will Give Notices that Officers may be appointed from the Line to fill them be nominated by the officers Commanding the Regts. from which they are taken, as Gen'l Wayne Cannot Repre- mand Colo. Butler for any Part of his Conduct Respecting Capt. Ashmead without Violating his own judgment & feel- ings he orders Col. Butler Immedieately out of an arrest & to take Charge of his Command in the Light Infantry:

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....		2	3	2	48

Officers for Guard tomorrow Lt. Fox and Ensn. Phillips.

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L. I. O. Near Fort Mountgomry, Sept. 24, '79.

Field Officer tomorrow Colo. Butler Ditto for Picquett this Night Maj'r Posey<sup>\*</sup> Adj't tomorrow Benjamine.

As a Ship & one or two Galleys with Some Boats has ap- peared in Vew on the Side Dandebarge Point the Gen'l wishes

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<sup>\*</sup>Thomas Posey, major, 7th Virginia; lieutenant colonel, September 11, 1782; retired, March 10, 1783; brigadier general, U. S. A., February 14, 1793; resigned, February 28, 1794; died, March 19, 1818.

Every Officer & Soldier to be attentive to hold them Selves in Readiness for action in Case any attempt Should be made by the Ennemy which is Rather more wished than Expected.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....	I	I	3	3	48

Officers for Guard Capt. Lawson<sup>\*</sup> & Lieut. McDowell.

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L. I. Orders Fort Montgomery, Sundy Sept. 26th, '79.

Field Officer tomorrow ———. Ditto for Picquitt this Night Colo. Butler adjt. tomorrow Lt. Maury.

The Gen'l once more Calls upon the Officers & Soldiers to be Carefull to heave two Day Provisions allways by them & hold themselves in Readiness Ither for marching or Action on a moments warning.

C	S	S	C	P
I	I	2	3	47

Officers for Guard Lieut. Chritenton.

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L. I. Orders Camp Near Fort Montgomery, Tuesday, Sept. 28th, 1779.

Field officer tomorrow Maj'r Hull Field Officer for Picquitt this Night Lt. Colo. Sill<sup>\*</sup> adjt. tomorrow Lt. Benjamin.

C	S	S	C	P	
Detale .....	I	2	5	3	48

Officers for Guard tomorrow Capt. Booker Lt. Craford & Coalman.

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<sup>\*</sup>Probably Claiborne W. Lawson, ensign, 1st Virginia, October 7, 1775; first lieutenant, December 2, 1776; captain, October 18, 1777, and was in service in 1781.

<sup>\*</sup>Lt. Col. David Fithian Sill, 1st Connecticut regiment.

L. I. Orders Wednesday September the 29th, 1779.

Field Officer tomorrow Maj'r Steward.  
Ditto for Picquitt this Night Lt. Col. Bay.  
Adjutant tomorrow Farell.

The Troops are to Parade the day after tomorrow at troop beating Arms accutremments & ammunition in the Best order Possible with their Packs Slung & two Days Provision agreeable to the Standing order when the Strictices Scrutiny will be made the Officers in to Every minucia who will also be anserable For Every man belonging to their Respective Companys no Excuse Can be admitted for non attendance or Unsoldierly appearance & in order to Remove Every Pretext for the latter the Quarter master will Call on Mr. Thomas at twelve Oclock to Day. Each for four Pounds Sewing thread and four hundred needels and Immediately Distribute them amoung the Companies of their Respective Regiments the Comisary will Issue Soap & Candles to Each Reg't Except those who have Drawn out of the ordinary Course in due Propotion.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....		1	3	2	49

Officer for Guard tomorrow Ensn. Philips.

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R. O. Sep'r 30th, 1779.

An Immediate Return to be made to the Colo. Egsactly sepeacifying the Number of affected mentioning only the men now belonging to the Corps Excluvith of those gone to the Hospital as those are to be suposed to be Returned wanting to Compleat Likewise mentioning from what Regiments the men are to be Draughted who are to supplie their Places that they may be sent for those Barefooted are to be Returned in a Collum by themselves it is with astonishment & sorrow the Colo. observed that the men Instid of taking Pride in keeping

them Selves Clean & neet are Daily increasing in this very Nessary Point appearing on the Parade Durty & Slovenny with their Caps Laped & Sloughed about their Eares he therefore Positively orders the officers whose Duty it is & whose Reputation in a Great measure Depends on the appearance of their men to Pay the Strictist attention to this Point and not to Suffier their men to appeare tomorrow or any other time her after on Parade in such an on Soldierly like maner as here to fore. Any man of Fealing must know how Disagreeable it is to a Commanding Officer to Repeat Orders of this Nature & hopes this will be the Last of the kind he will be under nesessity of Issueing.

The Colo. not being able to Precure Fine Shoes for the officers orders that Each Officer Field & Staff. [Torn off.]

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L. I. O. Octob'r 4th, 1779.

Field Officer Lt. Coll. Sill.

Ditto for Picquitt the Colo. Butler.

Adjutant Lt. Maury.

C	S	S	C	P
4	4	4		200

To Parade Immediately at the turn of the Road on this Side Harvestraw Forge all the Guards in frunt to march to Smiths White house under the Command of the Officer of the Day & the Remainder of the troops to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment Warning.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detach't . . . . .	I	I	I	I	42

Officers for Detach't Capt. Booker<sup>1</sup> and Lieut. Coalman.

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<sup>1</sup>Samuel Booker, first lieutenant, 15th Virginia, February 4, 1775; captain, August 1, 1777; regiment designated, 11th Virginia, September 14, 1778; taken prisoner at Charleston, May 12, 1780; transferred to 4th Virginia, February 12, 1781, and served to the close of the war.

Jacob, Richard, Samuel and Wyatt Coleman were lieutenants from Virginia in the Revolution, and Whitehead Coleman was a captain.

L. I. Orders Near Harvistraw Forge, Octo'r 5th, '79.

Field Officer to morrow Lt. Col. Hay Ditto for Picquett this Night Col. Febeger Adj't tomorrow Lt. Thompson.

The Q. Masters are Immediately to heave Vaults Dug One hundred & Fifty yds. in front for the men & one Hundred yds. in Rear for the Officers. Any Soldier Violating the Cleanly Disposition of the Camp will be Punished with great Severity. Frequent & Heavy Compliants having been Lodged with the Gen'l of the Depradations Committed by the Soldiers he Calls on the Officers to Exert them selves in detecting Marroditers & when they Remember that this Army was Raised to Protect & not to Oppress the Inhabitance he is Sure that Injuries So Repugnant to Freedom & So Contrary to the Conduct of the Corps will never more Be practised. The B. Q. M. will Deliver to the Q. M. of Each Reg't their proportion of the Axes.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....			2	2	35

R. O. one Sub Serj't Corp'l & 24 Privates to parade tomorrow morning at Sun Rise as a Fatigue to Clear the Regimental Parade the Officers will Receive his Orders from the Colo.

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L. I. O. Oct'r 6th, 1779.

Field Officer tomorrow Maj'r Stewart.

Adj't tomorrow Benjamine.

The whole Corps to Parade tomorrow Morning at seven O Clock with their arms ammunition & accutrem'ts in the Best order. This afternoon they will Improve in furnishing up the Cloathes So as to make the best & most Soldiery appearance possible the Officers will be punctual as to the point of time & be Careful that Every Soldier be present.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....	1	1	2	2	35

Officers for Guard Capt. Hudson & Ensign Phillips.

L. I. O. Kakiat, Friday, Octo'r 8th, 1779.

Field Officer tomorrow Col. Putnam.

Adj't tomorrow Lt. Maury.

Ordily Serj'ts from Colo. Putnams & Butlers Reg'ts for  
Light Infantry Head Quarters tomorrow.

S	S	Rank & file
I	I	20

To Parade this Evening at 5 Oclock with two Days Provision Excluvith this Day he will Receive his Orders from Maj'r Posey.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....	I	I	2	2	34
Detachment .....		I	0	0	4

Officers for Guard Capt. Lawson & Lt. McDowell.

Officer for Detachment Lt. Crittendon.

G. O. Light Infantry, Kakiat, Oct. 9th, '79.

Field Officer tomorrow Colo. Megs.

Adj't tomorrow Lt. Thompson.

Ordily Serj'ts from Megs & Febegers Reg'ts.

The Officers are to be Particularly attentive to the Cloathing of their men & See that their Arms Ammunition & accutremments are in Proper order the Whole Corps to Parade at Eight Oclock on Monday Morning.

	C	S	S	C	P
Detale .....		I	2	2	30

Officer for Guard Lieut. Walker.

(TO BE CONTINUED)